

# Hispanic Heritage Month



**DEBORAH ACOSTA CONDER**

**TIME AT JSC** 20 years  
**ORGANIZATION** Human Resources and Education Office  
**POSITION TITLE** Manager, Exchange Operations  
**EDUCATION** Bachelor of science in accounting from New Mexico State University; M.B.A. from University of Houston - Clear Lake; Executive Certificate in public administration from Syracuse University, Maxwell School  
**PLACE OF BIRTH** Silver City, N.M.  
**HOBBIES** Spending time with my husband and son, golf, home improvements, reading fiction and business books, listening to contemporary jazz music, church activities  
**WHAT DOES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH MEAN TO YOU?** Honoring the many contributions of Latinos certainly helps build self-esteem and pride in those of us who identify ourselves as Hispanic Americans. Even more important, though, is the honoring of all ethnic diversities that make us a great country. By celebrating the many rich cultural and ethnic heritages that make us who we are, we encourage respect and appreciation for the uniqueness of others.  
**FAVORITE WORDS OF WISDOM** After a particularly difficult past personal year, two sayings have come to have significant meaning for me. One was given to me by a wonderful friend and colleague, quoting Mother Teresa: “I know God won’t give me anything I can’t handle. I just wish He didn’t trust me so much.” I don’t know the author of this other one: “I can handle anything that life throws at me – I may not be able to handle it well, or correctly, or gracefully, or with finesse, or expediently – but I will handle it.” Good stuff to remember in times of challenges.



**ROBERTO S. GALVEZ**

**TIME AT JSC** 23 years  
**ORGANIZATION** Space Shuttle Program Office, Flight Operations and Integration Office  
**POSITION TITLE** Flight Manager  
**EDUCATION** Bachelor of science in electrical engineering from Louisiana State University  
**PLACE OF BIRTH** Panama City, Panama  
**HOBBIES** Restaurant hopping, traveling and spending quality time with my family  
**WHAT DOES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH MEAN TO YOU?** An opportunity to reflect on where we came from. Even though we have a different cultural background, we are able to live and work together and experience the great American dream.  
**FAVORITE WORDS OF WISDOM** You control your future. Take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that you have each day and don’t worry about circumstances that you cannot control. You’ll sleep better at night.



**DR. CHARLES RICHARD JUSTIZ**

**TIME AT JSC** 23 years  
**ORGANIZATION** Aircraft Operations Division of the Flight Crew Operations Directorate  
**POSITION TITLE** Research Pilot  
**EDUCATION** Bachelor of science from the U.S. Air Force Academy; master of science and doctor of philosophy from the University of Houston  
**PLACE OF BIRTH** Miami, Fla. (I was born in the off-season)  
**HOBBIES** Family, flying (of course), writing, biking, water sports  
**WHAT DOES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH MEAN TO YOU?** We live in a country that is a richly seasoned brew with ingredients from all over the world. Hispanic Heritage Month allows us to become familiar with just one of the spices in our country’s brew. We then come to the realization that even that spice is made up of many wonderful and exciting flavors.  
**FAVORITE WORDS OF WISDOM** “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” – Gandhi



**MIGUEL J. MAES**

**TIME AT JSC** Seven years  
**ORGANIZATION** White Sands Test Facility - Laboratories  
**POSITION TITLE** AST Flight Systems Test Engineer  
**EDUCATION** Bachelor of science in mechanical engineering; currently working on a master’s in chemical engineering  
**PLACE OF BIRTH** Santa Fe, N.M.  
**HOBBIES** Horseback riding, hiking, fishing, camping, shooting, martial arts, playing the guitar, playing any sport, computer gaming and many other activities  
**WHAT DOES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH MEAN TO YOU?** I think it’s an opportunity to share the history, diversity and richness of all the people it takes to make a Hispanic culture. We are brown, we are black, and we are white. What makes us unique is that our culture is what binds us. It’s an interesting thing to learn about!  
**FAVORITE WORDS OF WISDOM** “Defeat never comes to any man until he admits it.” – Josephus Daniels



**MARIA R. TELLES**

**TIME AT JSC** 12 years (started in El Paso)  
**ORGANIZATION** Aircraft Operations Division Engineering Branch  
**POSITION TITLE** Engineering Branch Secretary  
**EDUCATION** Pursuing a business degree  
**PLACE OF BIRTH** Cd. Juarez, Chih, Mexico  
**HOBBIES** Tennis, restoring vintage war planes, being a volunteer counselor at the South Houston Crisis Pregnancy Center  
**WHAT DOES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH MEAN TO YOU?** Hispanic Heritage means to me the enjoyment of the richness of life from the heart and soul. We are family-oriented and enjoy gathering with our families and loved ones to celebrate special events with the good flavors of food and music. Our colorful and unique culture can be seen all over the United States. The blending of our Hispanic ancestors has given us wisdom, compassion and feelings for our families and for others.  
**FAVORITE WORDS OF WISDOM** Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (intuition, perception and discernment)